Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, UR, NO

SUBJECT: EVENSEN VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 048988

- 1. PRESS COVERAGE OF EVENSEN WASHINGTON VISIT CONSISTED ONLY OF FOLLOWING REPORT BY PER EGIL HEGGE, CARRIED IN FEB 18 AFTENPOSTEN, ENTITLED "BRIEF MEETING ON THE PROTECTION ZONE IN WASHINGTON."
- 2. QUOTE LOS MINISTER JENS EVENSEN FRIDAY PAID A BRIEF VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO BRIEF THE US STATE DEPARTMENT ON THE PLANS FOR THE FISHERY PROTECTION ZONE AROUND SVALBARD. EVENSEN HAD ABOUT ONE HOUR'S TALK WITH RICHARD VINE, SECOND-IN-COMMAND IN THE DIVISION FOR WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.
- 3. TO NORWEGIAN JOURNALISTS, EVENSEN SAID THAT THE TALK WAS PART OF A BRIEFING ROUND ON THE MOTIVES BEHIND NORWAY'S PLANS FOR A FISHERY PROTECTION ZONE OFF SVALBARD. EVENSEN WILL HAVE TALKS ON THIS MATTER WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN MOSCOW MARCH 13-18 AND EXPECTS GREAT UNDERSTANDING THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR NORWAY'S VIEW. AT THE SAME TIME EVENSEN ALSO BRIEFED ON THE CONTENT OF THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE STORTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. THE SAME GROUP OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE EARLIER IN THE WEEK BRIEFED ON THIS MATTER BY REIULF STEEN. CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

- 4. AFTENPOSTEN UNDERSTANDS THAT RELATIVELY LITTLE WAS SAID FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE DURING EVENSEN'S TALK. BUT THE AMERICANS EXPRESSED SOME KNOWN VIEWS ON SOVIET INTERESTS AND ACTION IN THE NORTHERN ATLANTIC AREA, AND ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE USSR TRADITIONALLY SHOWS GREAT RESPECT FOR NATIONS WHO UPHOLD THEIR INTERESTS AND ARE WILLING TO DEFEND THEM.
- 5. THERE IS ALSO SOME DIVERGENCE OF OPINION CONCERNING THE SOVIET WILL TO COMPROMISE DURING NEGOTIATIONS OF THE TYPE NORWAY HAS BEEN CONDUCTING WITH THE USSR RECENTLY, BUT THIS DIVERGENCE OF OPINION WAS NOT STRESSED IN THE DAY'S HOUR-LONG TALK. THE US VIEW IN THESE MATTERS IS SOMEWHAT LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN THE EVALUATIONS NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED ON SOME OCCASIONS. EVENSEN IS RETURNING TO NEW YORK FRIDAY EVENING TO CONCLUDE THE INFORMAL INTERSESSIONAL MEETING PRIOR TO THE NEXT ROUND OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. UNQUOTE BREMER

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